

Appl. No. 09/629,909
Amdt. Dated Dec. 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 10, 2003

AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

10. (currently amended) A method for transmitting an e-mail message intended for a non-preferred e-mail address to a preferred e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message at a second address, the e-mail message having been previously rejected at the non-preferred e-mail address and transmitted back to a sender address;

parsing the non-preferred e-mail address from the e-mail message at the second address and determining if there is a preferred e-mail address associated with the non-preferred e-mail address; and

sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address.

11. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred e-mail address.

12. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the preferred e-mail address if the preferred e-mail address is not associated with the non-preferred e-mail address.

13. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the

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parsing step further comprises the step of comparing the non-preferred e-mail address to a look-up table to determine if the non-preferred e-mail address is contained in the look-up table.

14.(currently amended) A method for transmitting an e-mail message comprising the steps of:

receiving an e-mail message at a second address, the e-mail message having been previously rejected at the non-preferred e-mail address and transmitted back to a sender address, the e-mail message including non-preferred e-mail address data associated with a desired recipient;

parsing the e-mail message to obtain the non-preferred e-mail address data from the e-mail message;

determining a preferred e-mail address from the non-preferred e-mail address data; and

sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address when the preferred e-mail address has been established.

15.(previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to a sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred e-mail address.

16.(previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to a sender address from the second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the preferred e-mail address if the preferred e-mail address is not determined.

17.(curr ntly amended) A method for transmitting an e-mail message that has been sent from a send r address to a pr viously-known recipient -mail

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address and rejected at the previously-known recipient e-mail address, and
transmitted back to the sender address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the rejected e-mail message at a second address;
determining a preferred recipient e-mail address from the rejected e-mail
message; and
sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred
recipient e-mail address when the preferred recipient e-mail address has been
determined.

18.(previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, further
comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the
second address indicating that the e-mail has been sent to the preferred recipient
e-mail address.

19.(previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, further
comprising the step of sending an e-mail message to the sender address from the
second address indicating that the e-mail message was not forwarded to the
preferred recipient e-mail address if the preferred recipient e-mail address is not
determined.

20.(previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, further
comprising the step of comparing the previously-known recipient e-mail address to
a look-up table to determine if the previously-known recipient e-mail address is
contained in the look-up table.

21.(currently amended) A method for transmitting an e-mail message that
was sent from a sender address to a previously-known recipient e-mail address
that is associated with a first service provider, and rejected at the previously-

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known recipient e-mail address, and was sent back to the sender address, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving the rejected e-mail message at a second address;
- determining a preferred recipient e-mail address, that is associated with a second service provider, from the rejected e-mail message; and
- sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred recipient e-mail address when the preferred recipient e-mail address has been determined.

22.(currently amended) A method for transmitting an e-mail message that was previously rejected at a non-preferred e-mail address and transmitted back to a sender address and then has been sent from a sender address to a second address, the e-mail message including non-preferred e-mail address data associated with a first service provider and a desired recipient comprising the steps of:

- receiving the e-mail message at the second address;
- parsing the e-mail message to obtain the non-preferred e-mail address data from the e-mail message;
- determining a preferred e-mail address, that is associated with a second service provider, from the non-preferred e-mail address data; and
- sending the e-mail message from the second address to the preferred e-mail address when the preferred e-mail address has been established.

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